

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHAIRMAN
Thomas B. Getz

COMMISSIONERS
Clifton C. Below
Amy L. Ignatius

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AND SECRETARY
Debra A. Howland



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Received & Inspected
SEP 21 2011
FCC Mail Room

Tel. (603) 271-2431
FAX (603) 271-3878
TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964
Website:
www.puc.nh.gov

September 16, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission – Via USPS
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission – Via Fedex
Office of the Secretary
9300 East Hampton Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Karen Majcher
Vice President, High Cost & Low Income Division
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street, N.W., Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

RE: Certification of Support for Rural High-Cost Carriers Pursuant to 47 C.F.R.
Sections 54.313-314, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 00-256 and Annual State
Commission Rate Comparability Review and Certification for Areas Served by
Non-Rural Carriers

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission hereby certifies that pursuant to notarized affidavits received from rural carriers in New Hampshire, all federal high cost support provided in this state will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrade of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with section 254(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. This includes High Cost Loop support, Local Switching Support, High Cost Model support, Hold Harmless support, and high cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges.

Attached is the list of rural carriers certified by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.314 of the FCC's rules (47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.314), which require states to establish an annual certification process for rural and non-rural carriers receiving federal high cost support. Non-rural

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

carriers do not receive high cost support in New Hampshire. As requested by the Universal Service Administrative Company, listed beside each carrier is its assigned study area code.

Additionally, in accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 54.316, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission hereby certifies that the residential telephone rates charged for service as of July 1, 2011, are reasonably comparable to urban rates nationwide. In its *Order on Remand, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Memorandum of Opinion and Order* released in the above-referenced docket on October 27, 2003¹, the Federal Communications Commission established an annually-adjusted nationwide rate benchmark as a "safe harbor." Based upon the "safe harbor," rates in rural, high-cost areas that are below the benchmark are presumed to be reasonably comparable to urban rates nationwide. The residential rates in rural areas served by FairPoint Communications, the non-rural incumbent local exchange carrier operating in New Hampshire, are below the current nationwide urban benchmark of \$36.52, and as such, fall within the safe harbor afforded by 47 C.F.R. § 54.316(b).

If additional information is required, please contact the Telecommunications Division at (603) 271- 2431.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra A. Howland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Debra" being more prominent than the last name "Howland".

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Enc. (1)

cc: Local Rural Telephone Companies
File

¹ *Order on Remand, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Memorandum of Opinion and Order*, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 03-249, 18 FCC Rcd 22559, rel. October 27, 2003.

New Hampshire PUC
List of Rural Carriers
September 16, 2011

Study Area ID	NAME	NH SERVICE AREA EXCHANGES
120038	Bretton Woods Tel Co	Bretton Woods
120042	Dixville Tel Co	Dixville
120043	Dunbarton Tel Co	Dunbarton
103313	Northland Tel Co	Chatham, East Conway
120039	Granite State Tel Co	Weare, Chester, Hillsboro Upper Village, Washington
	TDS TELECOM	
120045	Kearsarge Tel Co	Chichester, Andover, Salisbury, Meriden, Boscawen, New London
123321	MCT Communications	Hollis, Antrim, Henniker, Hillsboro, Melvin Village
120047	Merrimack County Tel	Bradford, Contoocook, Sutton, Warner
120049	Union Tel Co	Alton, Barnstead, Center Barnstead, Gilmanton Iron Works, New Durham
120050	Wilton Tel Co	Wilton